

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 089378
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-10 IO-13 CPR-01 OIC-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 IC AE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
/086 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:BH
APPROVED BY P - MR NEWSOM
NEA:ALATHERTON,JR.
D- MR LAMB
S MR HOUGHTON
S/S:PTARNOFF

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O 070051Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO CENTO SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE PROMPTLY TO CENTO SYG
KAMURAN GURUN.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL:

I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO GREETING YOU IN WASHINGTON
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING,
AND TO CONVEYING TO YOU MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS, AS
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PAGE 02 STATE 089378

WELL AS THOSE OF MY GOVERNMENT, ON YOUR ASSUMING THE
RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CENTRAL
TREATY ORGANIZATION. WE BELIEVE THAT CENTO HAS AN IMPORT-
ANT ROLE TO PLAY WITH REGARD TO THE SECURITY OF THE CENTO
REGION AND ALSO WITH REGARD TO THE HIGHLY VALUABLE
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF
THE ORGANIZATION.

I WRITE TO YOU AT THIS MOMENT AS A RESULT OF URGENT REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAVE ARISEN THAT WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19-20, THE DATES SET FOR THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL.

I WISH TO LAY THE MATTER BEFORE YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CONSIDERATION, AND SEEK YOUR ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED.

AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN VERY HEAVILY ENGAGED IN RECENT MONTHS, IN THE CLOSEST COLLABORATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM IN SEEKING AN EARLY, EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT REGARDING THE FUTURE OF RHODESIA. IN VERY RECENT DISCUSSIONS IT HAS BEEN AGREED TO CONVENE AN URGENT MEETING OF INTERESTED PARTIES IN AFRICA ON THIS MATTER, AND I WILL THEREFORE BE RETURNING TO AFRICA FOR DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL KEEP ME OCCUPIED THERE THROUGH APRIL 17.

MEANWHILE, MY GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE USSR A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OF CONSIDERABLE AND URGENT IMPORTANCE. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT I SHOULD GO PERSONALLY TO MOSCOW AT AN EARLY DATE TO CARRY FORWARD THESE DISCUSSIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I SHALL HAVE TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW BY THE EVENING OF APRIL 19.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 089378

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE ABOVE, THE NEED FOR ME TO BE IN AFRICA THROUGH APRIL 17 AND TO BE IN MOSCOW BY LATE ON APRIL 19 WILL PRECLUDE MY BEING IN WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19-20 FOR THE CENTO MEETING. WE ARE, OF COURSE, PREPARED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE CENTO MEETING HERE ON THOSE DATES, AND IN THAT EVENT MY DEPUTY, WARREN CHRISTOPHER, WOULD CHAIR THE U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION AS WELL AS THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE PERSONALLY IN THE CENTO MEETING AND TO MEET WITH THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE OTHER CENTO COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS WITH YOU. HAVING THIS IN MIND, I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE ABLE TO SERVE AS HOST IN LONDON FOR THE CENTO MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING IN OUR PLACE, SHOULD THAT BE AGREEABLE TO THE REGIONAL MEMBERS. MR. OWEN HAS VERY GRACIOUSLY AGREED, AND I BELIEVE THAT HE WILL BE COMMUNICATING WITH YOU AND THE REGIONAL MEMBERS ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

IF YOU AND THE REGIONAL MEMBERS AGREE THAT OUR NEXT
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD IN LONDON, I

SHOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU AND THE HEADS OF DELEGATION TO
BE MY GUESTS AT DINNER ON APRIL 18 SO THAT WE MAY HAVE AN
INFORMAL OCCASION TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF INTEREST TO US
ALL.

I WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL, MR. SECRETARY GENERAL, IF YOU
WOULD LET ME HAVE YOUR VIEWS. IF YOU SHOULD AGREE THAT IT
WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HOLD THE COUNCIL MEETING IN LONDON,
PURSUANT TO THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM, I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD UNDERTAKE THE
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 089378

NECESSARY URGENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
REGIONAL MEMBER COUNTRIES.

I SEND MY BEST WISHES FOR YOUR SUCCESS IN YOUR POSITION OF
SECRETARY GENERAL, AND LOOK FORWARD TO A PERSONAL MEETING
WITH YOU. CYRUS VANCE END QUOTE.

3. REPORT PROMPTLY ANY REACTION TO ABOVE LETTER.

4. WE SHALL HAVE TO COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH HMG AND YOU
SHOULD THEREFORE KEEP YOUR BRITISH COLLEAGUE CURRENTLY
INFORMED REGARDING YOUR APPROACH. VANCE

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